



ADULT MEDICINE DIVISION COUNCIL

Meeting 03-2013

COMMUNIQUE

The following Communiqué highlights the key issues discussed during the AMD Council meeting 03-2013, held on Friday 27 September 2013.

AMD Council – Workforce Summit

As part of its commitment to addressing health workforce issues, on Thursday 26 September the AMD Council convened a Workforce summit. This summit addressed the role of the RACP in matching its training and trainees to the changing needs of population health, and how this would interact with models of care with Australia and New Zealand. The Summit provided a unique opportunity to engage individual specialties, and addressed the following issues:

- Current workforce capacity
- Current workforce distribution
- Current capacity to train
- Access to training
- Suitability of current training format
- Impact of the aging workforce.

The AMD Council also considered how it could assist the RACP in addressing issues relating to workforce planning in Australia and New Zealand in taking a greater advocacy-based role. A Green Paper, which would include a series of recommendations to the RACP Board, would be developed for submission to the RACP Workforce Working Party for its consideration in the New Year.

RACP Board – consultation on the future membership

Council received and discussed a report and presentation on proposals to change the membership of the RACP Board. This process has been initiated by the RACP in response to member feedback requesting that the governance structures within the College streamlined to reduce bureaucracy and fewer resources devoted to this enterprise.

The RACP Board approached the Council for its views on this process as part of a College-wide consultation. Council broadly supported the proposals for change to the makeup of the RACP Board as described. Council recommended that any proposals arising from this process be widely publicised to College members, and that Trainees continue to be represented on the RACP Board.

Specialty Societies – sharing key information

Earlier in the year, AMD Council requested that each of the Specialty Society share with each other information on how they function, carry out their business and are affiliated with the College and other medical institutions. The report on the project, including an detailed information that was received from the specialty societies, was received and discussed at this meeting.

Council agreed the project had yielded a substantive amount of new and useful information, and it was agreed to follow up with those Specialty Societies that are still to provide their information. It was also agreed that this project would be incorporated into the AMD Council work plan every second year, to keep societies abreast of developments and in touch with each other.

General Medicine Working Group

A position statement on Green Paper II - *Improving access to specialist care in rural areas: The case for general medicine and dual-trained physicians* had been developed for distribution to key stakeholder groups and other interested parties. The position statement would be distributed to relevant groups in coordination with the RACP Policy and Advocacy Unit prior to the end of 2013.

AMD Policy and Advocacy Committee

Council agreed that as the Policy and Advocacy activities of the Adult Medicine Division were now well managed and delivered within the newly-implemented College Policy and Advocacy Committee and CPC (Advisory Committee). It was therefore agreed to dissolve the AMD Policy and Advocacy Committee.

New AMD Council members

The Council welcomed the following new members

- Prof Steve Chadban – Specialty Society Representative (TSANZ)
- Dr Robert van den Berg – Specialty Society Representative (ARA)
- A/Prof Rohan Vora – AChPM President.

Dr Alasdair MacDonald
AMD President
